

Regular Session, December 7, 2009, 9:30 a.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

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WPCOG

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse in Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chair Lynn M. Lail and Commissioners Glenn E. Barger and Barbara G. Beatty.

Commissioner Dan Hunsucker was absent.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley, Assistant County Manager Dewey Harris, Deputy County Attorney Anne Marie Pease, and County Clerk Barbara Morris. County Attorney Debra Bechtel was absent.

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.
2. Chair Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Vice-Chair Lynn M. Lail offered the invocation.

4. Commissioner Glenn E. Barger made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Organizational Meeting of the Board of Commissioners:
Chair Barnes then announced it was the organizational meeting of the Board of Commissioners and she asked County Manager J. Thomas Lundy to conduct the election of the chair and vice-chair. Mr. Lundy opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Vice-Chair Lail made a motion to appoint Katherine W. Barnes as Chair. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Barnes then asked for nominations for Vice-Chair and Commissioner Barbara G. Beatty made a motion to appoint Lynn M. Lail as Vice-Chair. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Barnes then recommended the following organizational appointments for the upcoming year:
 - a. County Attorney – Debra Bechtel
 - b. Finance and Personnel Subcommittee – Commissioners Beatty and Barger
 - c. Policy and Public Works Subcommittee – Commissioners Lail and Hunsucker
 - d. WPCOG Policy Board Delegate – Chair Barnes
 - e. WPCOG Policy Board Alternate – Vice-Chair Lail
 - f. Hospital Board of Trustees – Commissioner Beatty
 - g. Mental Health Partners Board – Chair Barnes
 - h. Public Health Board – Commissioner Hunsucker
 - i. Social Services Board and Community Service Block
Grant Advisory Board – Commissioner Barger
 - j. Catawba County Criminal Partnership Advisory Board – Vice-Chair Lail
 - k. Catawba County Partnership for Children Board – Vice-Chair Lail
 - l. Child Advocacy Center Board – Commissioner Hunsucker
 - m. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – Chair Barnes
6. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed all present and the special groups present to be recognized during Presentations and School Superintendents Barry Redmond and Lillie Cox.
7. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda: None.
8. Presentations:
All the Commissioners went to the podium to present the following awards:
 - a. Vice-Chair Lail presented a Distinguished Public Service Award to Bruce Eckard in recognition of his twenty-four years of service to the City of Conover as both a member of the City Council and as Mayor for twenty of those years. The award was a tribute to Mr. Eckard's commitment to the quality of life of the citizens of the City of Conover.
 - b. Chair Barnes presented a Distinguished Public Service Award to Glenn Morrison in recognition of his twelve years of service as Mayor of the City of Claremont. This award was a tribute to Mr. Morrison's commitment to the quality of life of the citizens of the City of Claremont.
 - c. Commissioner Barger presented a Distinguished Public Service Award to Sarah Talbert in recognition of her service to the Hickory Public Schools and Catawba County as a member of the Hickory Board of Education for over fourteen years, the last eight years as Chair. The award was a tribute to Ms. Talbert's sustained dedication to children, educators and the betterment of public education.
 - d. Commissioner Beatty presented a Distinguished Public Service Award to Randy Isenhower in recognition of his service to the Newton-Conover City Schools and Catawba County as a member of the Newton-Conover Board of Education for twelve years, with over six years as Chair. This award was a tribute to Mr. Isenhower's sustained dedication to children, educators and the betterment of public education.
 - e. The Board presented a Distinguished Public Service Award to the County's Network Administrator, Rick Cook, in recognition of his outstanding achievement on being named recipient of the 2009 James S. Cooper Award by the North Carolina Local Government Information Systems Association. This annual award recognizes an individual who provides exemplary service in the area of inter-agency cooperation. Mr. Cook was recognized as an individual who exemplifies the spirit of

collaboration with the ultimate goal of providing the best possible service for our citizens, and a true public servant who does not seek credit or acknowledgement for his efforts.

f. Chair Barnes presented a 2009 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association to Budget Manager Jennifer Mace, Budget Analyst I Katrina Hawkins and Intern Jonathon Greer. The award is given to local governments that prepare and publish a budget document judged to be both informative and understandable. Catawba County has won the award for 21 consecutive years. Chair Barnes noted that this was the first full year that Budget Manager Jennifer Mace had been in the manager's position and it was wonderful that the Budget Department had continued its awarding winner budget presentation under this new management.

Upon returning to the dais, Chair Barnes noted a motion was needed regarding the organizational appointments recommendations made earlier in the meeting. Vice-Chair Lail made a motion to approve these appointments. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Appointments.

Vice-Chair Lynn Lail recommended the reappointment of Clement Geitner to the Equalization and Review Board for a third term. Mr. Geitner's term will expire December 3, 2012. The Catawba Valley Medical Center Board of Trustees recommended and Commissioner Barbara Beatty presented the recommendation to appoint Dr. Billy Price for a first term to replace Dr. Don Campbell and to reappoint Ron Lindler for a third term on the Catawba Valley Medical Center Board of Trustees. These terms will expire December 31, 2013. Commissioner Beatty also recommended the appointment of Wes Starnes for a first term to replace Walter Cornwell, representing the St. Stephens Station, and Mickey Laney for a first term to replace Ben Elmore, representing the Bandys Station on the Fireman's Relief Fund Volunteer Fire Department Board of Trustees. Commissioner Beatty also recommended the following reappointments to this Board of Trustees: Norris Huss for a third term, representing the Cookesville Station; Jerry Loy Sigmon for a seventh term, representing the Oxford Station; Chuck Ward for a third term, representing the Mountain View Station; Mike Weaver for a second term, representing the Propst Station and Eddie White for a seventh term, representing the Sherrills Ford Station. All these terms will expire December 31, 2011. Commissioner Glenn Barger recommended the appointment of Debbie Shook, Jay Bajoreck and Sherbia Jones to fill vacant positions on the Community Services Block Grant Board. These terms will expire October 31, 2012. Commissioner Barger also recommended the appointment of Linda Lutz to replace Karen Yausey who is no longer on this Board by virtue of her position. This unexpired term will expire June 30, 2010.

Chair Barnes recommended the following appointments to the Catawba County Youth Council: Anne Orgain – Hickory High; Andrew Collins – Hickory High; Madison Malson – Home School/4-H; Jasmine Edwards – NAACP; Taylor Simmons – Bunker Hill; Lake Gibson – Bunker Hill; Jonathon Lambert – Private School; Shivam Desai – Newton-Conover High; Mitchell Lee – Challenger; Lilly LeQuire – Newton Health & Science; Hannah Roston – Private School; Robert Eades – Bandys; Allison Todd – Newton Health & Science; Sarah Sigmon – Foard; Megan Smith – St. Stephens and Katie Morrison – Foard. Chair Barnes also recommended the following reappointments to the Youth Council: Jason Setzer – Bunker Hill; Jacob Richard – Maiden; Kristy Decker – Maiden; Elly Houser – Bandys; Nicky Lo – Hmong Assoc./Maiden; Jessica Bailes – Newton-Conover; Chilo Forsyth – Boy Scouts; Ashley Bandy – Newton-Conover; Regan Hale – Hickory High; Kimberly Hulley – St. Stephens; Joanna Johnson – Girl Scouts; Rebekah Love – Newton-Conover; Lauren Riley – Maiden and Savannah Sherrill – Bandys.

These recommendations came in the form of a motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Departmental Reports:

a. Tax

Tax Collector Ona Scruggs presented a tax refund request totaling \$1,159.90. The request was made by D & H Real Estate, LLC. Records had been checked and this refund verified so the Tax Collector asked for approval of the refund request. According to North Carolina General Statute 105-381, a taxpayer who has paid taxes may request a refund (in writing) for an amount that was

paid through error. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the refund request. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Utilities and Engineering:

Waste Reduction Coordinator Amanda Kain presented a report on the November 7, 2009 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, at L.P. Frans Stadium in Hickory, from Amanda Kain, the County's Waste Reduction Coordinator. Ms. Kain reported that the collection was the largest to date, with a record 723 vehicles coming to the drop-off event, representing 1,059 households. High volumes of paint, computers, and televisions were collected. This report was for informational purposes only and no action was required.

11. Other Items of Business:

a. County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented a request for the Board to adopt a resolution of support for the City of Morganton's efforts to be selected as the site for the Headquarters and Visitors' Center for the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. On November 18, 2009, Morganton city officials met with the National Park Service and the Service's planning consultants to discuss the potential development of a new National Headquarters and Visitors' Center for the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. Morganton has historical ties to the Overmountain Men who gathered in Burke County at Quaker Meadows in 1780 on their way to the Battle of Kings Mountain. Morganton has made several sites available for the potential Visitors' Center and can offer convenient access to the proposed Visitors' Center by way of Interstate 40, US Highways 64 and 70 and North Carolina Highways 18, 181 and 126, with three of these highways converging in downtown Morganton and already designated as official segments of the Overmountain Victory Trail. The proposed \$2 to \$3 million facility would bring national recognition, attract visitors to the region and support economic development efforts to promote heritage tourism as a growth industry. Mr. Lundy noted the Board had also supported this type effort for Morganton a few years ago when they were seeking to be named as the Little League's headquarters. Commissioner Barger made a motion to adopt the following resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE LOCATING ITS NEW OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL
HEADQUARTERS AND VISITORS CENTER NEAR HISTORIC QUAKER MEADOWS IN
MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has given official public notice that it proposes to establish a New National Headquarters and Visitors Center for the congressionally recognized Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail is a 330 mile long non-motorized trail and driving tour celebrating the significant historical events that occurred in 1780 leading up to the Battle of Kings Mountain, a turning point in American Revolution and significant step toward American Independence from England; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has indicated that it wishes to locate in centralized proximity and access to other sections of the National Historic Trail and also upon a location that offers significant historical reference, context, access and interpretative opportunities to the public; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that Historic Quaker Meadows, in Morganton, North Carolina served as the home to Colonel Charles McDowell and the meeting place for militia armies marching from Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina in an attempt to end British tyranny of the region at the time; and

WHEREAS, within Historic Quaker Meadows, under the Council Oak, historic decisions were made and significant war planning took place that set into motion events that would change American

History and lead to a combined march toward Kings Mountain and the defeat of one of Cornwallis' leading commanders, Major Patrick Ferguson; and

WHEREAS, Morganton, North Carolina offers the National Park Service not only centralized proximity to all sections of the trail, but also a rich unique opportunity to introduce American history to the public on ground where this history actually occurred.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Catawba County Board of Commissioners hereby encourages the National Park Service to locate its new National Headquarters and Visitors Center in Morganton, North Carolina and endorses any of the locations currently proposed.

ADOPTED this the 7th day of December, 2009.

b. The Board was requested to adopt a resolution approving proposed changes to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) Charter that would allow the Council to hold ownership of real property. At the Council's Policy Board meeting on November 24, 2009, plans for a new Council of Governments office facility were discussed. The Policy Board was advised by legal counsel that minor changes were required to the WPCOG Charter to clearly authorize the Council to hold ownership of real property. All member local governments were provided with copies of the proposed changes and asked to adopt a resolution approving these changes. The changes will become official upon the approval of 3/4ths of the member local governments. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adopt the following resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2009-
RESOLUTION OF CATAWBA COUNTY
APPROVING CHANGES TO THE WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
CHARTER**

WHEREAS, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) is organized and exists pursuant to concurrent resolutions and amendments thereto adopted by and among the Counties of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba and the Cities and Towns of Brookford, Cahah's Mountain, Catawba, Cedar Rock, Claremont, Connelly springs, Conover, Drexel, Gamewell, Glen Alpine, Granite Falls, Hickory, Hildebran, Hudson, Lenoir, Long View, Maiden, Morganton, Newton, Rhodhiss, Rutherford College, Sawmills, Taylorsville and Valdese, in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-470, et. Seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the WPCOG Policy Board met on November 24, 2009 regarding plans for a new Council of Governments office facility; and

WHEREAS, the Policy Board was advised by its legal counsel that minor changes were needed to the WPCOG Charter to clearly authorize the Council to hold ownership of real property.

WHEREAS, the WPCOG has provided its member local governments with copies of the proposed Charter changes which allow ownership of real property by the Council of Governments and is requesting that each member local government adopt a resolution approving the proposed Charter changes. The proposed changes will become official upon the approval of ¾ of the member local governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Catawba County Board of Commissioners approves the proposed changes to the Charter of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments which will allow ownership of real property by the Council.

Adopted this the 7th day of December, 2009.

12. Attorneys' Report: None.
13. Manager's Report: None.
14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk